

# REALumni E-Newsletter

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 | Director's Message
- 2 | New Makers Design Project by Makers Lab
- 3 | Celebrating Students' Achievements
- 4 | Convocation 2020
- 5 | NTU Alumni Course Credits
- 6 | Featured Alumni
- 7 | Alumni Mentor

## Director's Message

We trust our REALumni are keeping well during these unprecedented times. All over the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the lives of many and had led to changes on how people relate with one another. In the past few months, many countries have moved to lockdown and quite a number have started reopening their economy in phases. Times have been challenging as we experienced disruptions, postponement or cancellation of mass events and a large number of us are transiting to remote working and tele-commuting modes.

At NTU, we stand together to take care of one another and ensure that our community are protected and supported. The current climate is challenging for all. Hence resilience, community spirit and positivity can go a long way in overcoming the difficulties. Do take care of your physical health and mental well-being and all of us should come out better and stronger when the crisis ends.

## New Makers Design Project by Makers Lab

Makers Lab has recently launched a new Makers Design Project (MDP) which enables students to partner with different organisations, charities and government agencies to define and solve real-life problems. One of the teams comprising Lim Li Ying (Year 4), Koh Rachel and Kok Zhao Jie (Year 1), partnered with National Parks Board (NParks) to tackle the problem of helping tree climbers deploy and recover throwlines more accurately and efficiently. Recognising that throwbags get caught easily in narrow forks of tree branches, the team designed a collapsible bag which allows lead weights to come out of the bag when pulled sufficiently, thus allowing for easy retrieval.

Secondly, the existing launch mechanisms for throwbags are either done with hand or with a pressurised pipe, which are restricted to ground deployment. Next the team used a crossbow design to launch the throwbags, which can be used even while climbing and helps with aiming. This is to overcome existing launch mechanisms which are either done with hand or with a pressurised pipe.





## Shell Imagine the Future Competition 2020



Our Year 1 students have done well. Two teams came out as champion and runner-up in this year's "Imagine the Future Scenario" competition organised by Shell. The competition challenges teams to build scenarios to imagine the future of a more and cleaner energy in Asian cities and how we would live, work, and play in that future. Congratulations to Wang Rui Xian, Ong Hiok Hian, Koh Yu Xuan, Lim Neng Du, Sng Li Wen Aaron, Koo Jie Hui, Lim Sheng Jie, Tan Bing Qian for emerging as the champion team. The team's proposal was based on Koshi world and

Banbo world. They noted that each time Japan changes an emperor, it will change its era name to describe the incoming emperor's reign. With the recent emperor change in 2019, the era name has been changed to Reiwa (令和). In imagining the future, Koshi world means a great vast expanse, indicative of a world that integrates and progressively adopts technology while Banbo world means great security, indicative of a world that differentiates and conservatively adopts technology. The team will be participating in the Regional Final on 12 August 2020 in a virtual format.

The runner-up team used Singapore as a case study and envisaged a Diamond and Seed World. In the Diamond World, they envision a world where Singaporeans have been hardened by the tough environmental conditions while in the Seed World, it was portrayed where Singaporeans adopted an incredibly environmentally conscious stance and placed an added emphasis on preserving the environment.



## Convocation 2020



Due to COVID-19, the University has made the difficult decision to postpone the in-person Convocation and PhD Hooding ceremonies for the Class of 2020, originally scheduled from 21 to 29 July 2020. In its place, the University will conduct a Virtual Celebration to mark this important milestone for the Class of 2020 on **18 July 2020 (Saturday)** at **10:30 am** Singapore time. Do join in and congratulations to the graduating cohort (R5)!

## NTU Alumni Course Credits



### Interested in upgrading yourself?

Under the NTU Alumni Course credits initiative, each NTU alumni will receive S\$1,600 course credits. All alumni may utilize their course credits to apply to all Continuing Education (CET) courses offered by [NTU-CET units](#).

Through the initiative, NTU seeks to promote lifelong learning, encourage and empower NTU alumni to upgrade their knowledge and upskill their profession to stay relevant in the ever-changing global workforce.

If you are keen, do check these courses by PaCE@NTU out:

- [Short courses](#)
- [Semester-Long Courses](#)
- [Part-Time Engineering Degree Courses](#)
- [Mobile Learning Courses](#)
- [MiniMaster](#)



**Find out more** about the various fees/charges, subsidies, and application process in the [FAQ](#). To find out more, please feel free to email to [pace@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:pace@ntu.edu.sg).



# Featured Alumni

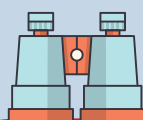
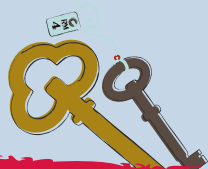
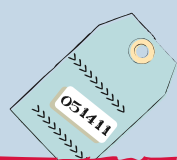
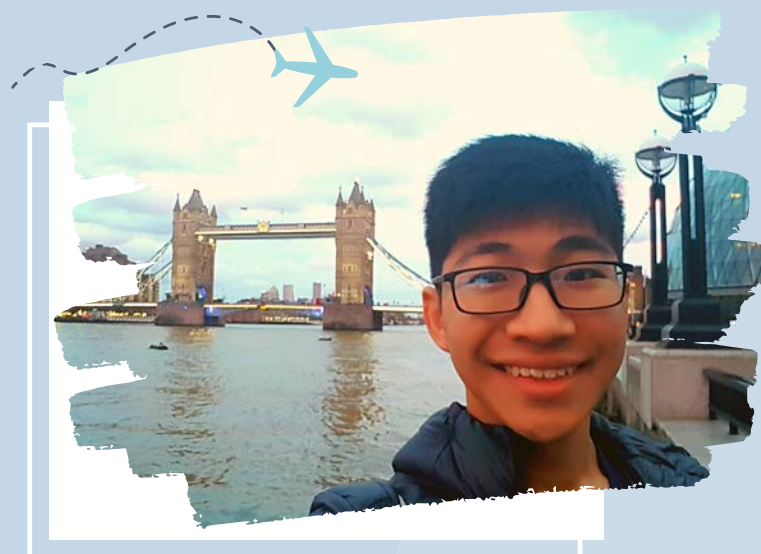
Over the years, we have seen some alumni taking up overseas employment. Today, we caught up with a few from the recent graduating cohort (R5) to find out how they are adapting to the current pandemic in different countries and how they have to adjust their lifestyle in their new job.



Lee Min, Jaclyn (R5) is currently working as an Associate in the R&D division at Sysmex Corporation in Kobe, Japan. Her company is a healthcare company focused on In Vitro Diagnostics products and it designs, manufactures and markets healthcare diagnostic equipment to hospitals, clinics and laboratories. Their traditional core businesses are in hematology, hemostasis and urinalysis and they are currently diversifying into developing new core business units. She joined the Systems Technologies Laboratory in the R&D division in mid April 2020. Her role is heavily lab-based and technical and involves work such as planning experiments and preparing cell samples for measurement with the machine platform. Her team works on developing the imaging flow cytometry platform for specific clinical applications. Her current work is aligned to her specialisation of Bioengineering.

During the emergency period, she was teleworking, and when the cases continued to stay low in her prefecture, her company imposed a quota on the number of people that can return to the company. When the emergency was over in June, it is compulsory for all workers to go back to normal work unless he/she has extraordinary reasons such as childcare. Everyone wears a mask in the office.

Low Heok Hong (R5) is a Forward Deployed Software Engineer at Palantir Technologies in UK since February 2020. His specialisation is Computer Science. He started company on-boarding in California for a week, followed by New York for another week, and finally landed in London, his home office. His weekly travel continued when he was assigned to a deployment in Germany and he headed over to meet the team. He returned to London the next week right before the company decided to close all offices and cut back on travel. It was hard to get started with a new deployment while working from home in UK, having met the team only for a week. Fortunately, he had an internship in the California office previously and the experience helped to ease him into the job. Due to the COVID-19 situation in UK and the rising number of infections there, he decided to return to Singapore. Heok Hong continued to work from Singapore currently but followed European time zone which was slightly inconvenient but still manageable. His working hours are from around 4pm to around 2am.



Nathanael S Raj (R5) is currently working as a Software Engineer in Facebook in Menlo Park, California, US since February 2020. His specialisation is also Computer Science. His main role is in the WhatsApp Backend Infra team where they build and maintain one of the largest distributed real-time systems in the world. He was fortunate to be at the Facebook Menlo Park campus. It is huge, perhaps around the size of NTU, and has plenty of amenities like restaurants, gyms, dessert shops, arcade rooms, a soccer field, rock wall, roof gardens, wood working workshops, and more. There are even vending machines which dispense electronics, including noise cancelling bluetooth headphones and they are free! He had an initial onboarding for two months and during that period, employees can get to work with different teams. Nathanael has remained in US despite the pandemic. On 21 May 2020, Facebook announced that it would allow its employees to work from home permanently. Hence Nathanael will be working remotely most probably until the end of the year. Work wise, it has been a challenge trying to ramp up while working from home but he is glad to have the support of his colleagues, manager and housemates, one of which is Derek Chin!



# CALLING OUT FOR ALUMNI MENTOR!

We are pleased to roll out a new initiative on alumni mentor for the incoming freshmen and if you are keen to be one, please click [here](#) to indicate your interest. We hope to hear from you by 17 July 2020.

## We would love to HEAR from you!

Do you have interesting stories to share or are planning to organise activities for your fellow alumni? Let us know and we will be glad to feature them in the e-newsletter. We welcome all suggestions and contributions for future issues. Simply email us at [REALumni@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:REALumni@ntu.edu.sg).

## Update Your Contact Details

Have a career progression or change your mobile number? Do update your personal particulars by emailing us to receive this e-newsletter, latest news and announcement and stay connected with us.

## Connect with Us

<https://www.ntu.edu.sg/rep/REALumni> 

[facebook.com/NTUREALumni](https://facebook.com/NTUREALumni) 

[@ntu.realumni](https://twitter.com/ntu.realumni) 